



# Women Veterans Celebration



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June 17, 2016 - In collaboration with Goodwill Industries, Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Women Veterans of Nevada (WVON) the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) hosted a Women Veterans Celebration in honor of women who have served in the military.



All Photos by: Kate Gelbart



Women Veterans from various war and peace time eras and all branches came out to enjoy each other's company, share stories and to celebrate their service to America.



The Guest Speaker for the evening was Nevada Department of Veterans Services Deputy Director Kathleen Dussault and the Guest of Honor was Betty Fox who served during World War II in the Marine Corps.



## Women Veterans Celebration



WVAC members: Vita Lopez (r), Bobi Oates (c), Charley Smith (l)



Special Guest WWII Vet: Betty Fox (r), Kathleen Dussault (l)



Hosts:  
Nina Ridgeway (r),  
Tanya Burtis (l)



Sandy (r), Vita (l)



Guests: Zina (l) and Sosefina (r)



All Photo Credits: Kate Gelbart

Guests mingling with Kathleen Dussault, Deputy Director (center)

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

July Fourth in the U.S., is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

### **Sand Harbor:**

Take the family for a day of cool fun at Sand Harbor beach and park. You can also attend the Shakespeare Festival, Sand Harbor, Nevada, NV. Enjoy Shakespeare and more at the world's most beautiful venue.

### **Reno:**

Sunday, July 3, 2016. The region's longest, most spectacular fireworks display is set off from the roof of the Nugget while thousands of revelers celebrate the 4th of July on Victorian Square below. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:45 p.m., but this party is an all-day event starting at 10 a.m. It includes arts and craft vendors along Victorian Avenue, free entertainment, a patriotic bike parade, and for those who want a special treat and are willing to pay, a VIP viewing area with all-you-can-eat desserts and beverages. No pets, glass containers, or barbecues. Visitors are asked to donate to a fund-raising effort to support the fireworks. If enough is raised, there will also be fireworks on July 4.

Monday, July 4, 2016. A big 4th of July fireworks show will light the skies over Aces Ballpark following the night's game against the Tacoma Rainiers. This is also Baseball Bingo night, when fans can play for a chance at some great prizes. The game starts at 6:35 p.m.

With July being Artown in Reno, there will be patriotic events to celebrate America's Independence Day. All of these are free and will be at Wingfield Park by the Truckee River.

- Sounds of Freedom: Masterworks Chorale & Reno Municipal Band - July 3, 2016, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Patriotic music celebration and a tribute to veterans and the Armed Forces.
- Family Series: Celebrate America - July 4, 2016, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fun family activities, projects, art and food available from Men Wielding Fire and Dolce Delight.
- Family Series: The Reno Phil - July 4, 2016, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Patriotic music concert presented by the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner, or buy food from vendors at the park. Fireworks will follow the concert.

### **Virginia City:**

Monday, July 4, 2016. Virginia City offers one of the region's longest firework displays, visible from nearly anywhere in town. The Virginia City Fourth of July Celebration also includes a Fourth of July Parade at 12 noon, a raffle and auction, the Comstock Cowboys Second Amendment Concert and plenty of food and beverage vendors. Throughout the day, visitors can stroll the boardwalk, sample sweets, browse the shops and ride the V&T Railroad short line.

### **South Lake Tahoe:**

Monday, July 4, 2016. This is one of the top five fireworks displays in the nation. The best viewing spots for the 9:45 p.m. show around South Lake Tahoe beaches include Lakeview Commons/El Dorado Beach area, Nevada Beach, Tallac Historic Site, Timber Cove Marina, Edgewood Tahoe, and on the lake aboard M.S. Dixie II and Tahoe Queen paddle-wheelers or private boat rentals. The program is simulcast on local radio stations KRSLT-FM 93.9 and KOWL-AM 1490. The fireworks show is just one of many Fourth of July weekend events happening around South Lake Tahoe.





## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, continued

### **Incline Village:**

Red, White and Tahoe Blue at Incline Village - Friday through Monday, July 1 - 4, 2016. This event is a whole weekend of 20+ family activities, including a parade, community parade, the *MarchFourth!* marching band and fireworks on July 4. Note that all events are not free. For additional information, call (323) 490-3281. Note that access to Incline Village beaches is restricted to residents and guests.

### **North Tahoe:**

July 3rd Fireworks & Beach Party - Sunday, July 3, 2016. Admission is free to this event, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the North Tahoe Event Center on the beach at Kings Beach State Recreation Area (about 5.5 miles west of Incline Village on Highway 28). The event will include food trucks and vendors, a beer/wine and mixed drink garden, free watermelon eating, sand castle building and patriotic costume contests, games, music, fireworks glow toys, souvenirs and more. You can spend a little and get a preferred seating chair on the beach for the fireworks show.

### **Tahoe City:**

July 4th Fireworks in Tahoe City - Monday, July 4, 2016. Funky Family Beach Day at Commons Beach and around town will be a day of activities including live music, food and merchandise vendors, and a big fireworks show in the evening. It's free to attend, with donations accepted to help support the event. Tahoe City is south of Truckee on Highway 89, on the northwest shore of Lake Tahoe. For more information, call (530) 583-3348.

### **Genoa :**

Genoa Americana Celebration - Monday, July 4, 2016. Come out to Mormon Station State Historic Park in Genoa and discover the Genoa Americana Celebration. This event includes a children's parade, games, live music, food vendors and jam sessions. Bring drinking water and low backed chairs or blankets and enjoy listening to music on the grass, under the shade of the big trees. Be sure to visit the log cabin museum and see artifacts used by early pioneers. Museum entrance is free for children 12 and under and is \$1 for those older than 12. This free event is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



### **Fireworks are Illegal in Washoe County**

Except for regulated fireworks shows, it is illegal to set off any kind of fireworks in Washoe County and in all areas (both Nevada and California) around Lake Tahoe. Be respectful to our Nation's Active Military and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by not discharging fireworks in neighborhoods. Discharging fireworks in undesignated areas affects the wellbeing of veterans.

### **Las Vegas:**

The Stratosphere Casino, Hotel & Tower

The hotel will be launching fireworks from their property on July 3 at 9 p.m. The fireworks display by Grucci will launch from various locations including the top of the tower.

Caesars Palace will feature a special fireworks display with live music on Sunday, July 3. The Roman Plaza and Spanish Steps directly in front of Caesars Palace will be transformed for the massive block party which will feature live music, signature cocktails, life size games, patriotic decorations, homemade BBQ specials and more from noon to midnight beginning Friday, July 1 through Sunday, July 3.



## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, continued



### Las Vegas:

The sky above Mandalay Bay Beach will light up with fireworks accompanied by performances by 311 on July 2 - 3. Guests will be treated to 311's hits, classics and rarities on July 2 & 3. Both shows will be followed by fireworks over the Las Vegas Strip.

The Stations Casinos properties, which are local casinos across the valley, will shoot off fireworks displays from their Green Valley Ranch Resort in Henderson and their Red Rock Resort in the northwest at 9 p.m. on July 4.

Fireworks at the Stratosphere take place at 9 p.m.

Radius Rooftop Pool & Wet Lounge at the Stratosphere. Experience the fireworks up close at this party at the Stratosphere's rooftop pool. There will be a DJ and other live entertainment plus an open bar from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Admission is \$60. You must be 21 to attend this party.

Elation Pool at the Stratosphere on the 4th party starts at 5 p.m. and admission is \$30. Enjoy a live performance by Yellow Brick Road and the fireworks extravaganza.

### Boulder City:

For a more small-town 4th of July experience, try Boulder City's Damboree celebration. There's a pancake breakfast, games, a parade, and of course, a large fireworks display at 9 p.m.

### Henderson:

The City of Henderson also holds an annual 4th of July celebration with live music, games, activities and a fireworks show at 9 p.m. in Mission Hills Park.

### Pahrump:

On Monday, July 4, 2016 at the Petrack Park, celebrate the birth of our Nation at the annual Pahrump Liberty Festival. Enjoy family-friendly activities, entertainment, food, arts & craft vendors and more! In the evening bring a blanket or a lawn chair and watch the sky light up with one of Southern Nevada's longest fireworks displays. Admission to the festival is FREE and is open to the public.

### Mesquite:

Eureka Casino Resort is proud to host "Rockets over the Red Mesa" on Saturday, July 4. The Nevada POPS Orchestra will be back again with a full 32-piece orchestra performing a 75-minute program with a rock and roll twist. Vocalist, Bruce Ewing, from Vegas shows such as Phantom and Forever Plaid, will accompany the orchestra with rock and roll classics from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

This free event will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Eureka Casino Resort, 275 Mesa Blvd., Mesquite, NV., with a community vendor village and DJ. The celebration continues with a live performance from the Nevada POPS Orchestra at 8:00 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9:00 p.m. The orchestra will accompany the fireworks show to celebrate Independence Day in true American style. This is a family friendly event and everyone is invited to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs to the viewing area, which will be set up behind the Eureka Casino Resort.

- 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m Smokehouse BBQ Buffet in Town Square
- 6:00 p.m. Community Vendor Village
- 8:00 p.m. Live Performance by the Nevada POPS Orchestra
- 9:00 p.m. "Rockets over the Red Mesa" Fireworks Show

# Bill Requiring Women to Register for the Draft Passes Senate

June 16, 2016 | by Hope Hodge Seck



A provision that would require women to register for the military draft alongside men for the first time in American history was included as part of the massive 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that passed the Senate handily on Tuesday with an 85-13 vote.

The language requiring the draft for women was added in committee and received little debate on the Senate floor, but has created a firestorm of controversy on and off Capitol Hill. It comes as the military services welcome women into previously closed ground combat units in keeping with a mandate from Defense Secretary Ash Carter given late last year.

On February 2, 2016 a panel of top military leaders including Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley, Marine Corps Commandant General Robert Neller, and Navy Secretary Ray Mabusall told the Senate Armed Services Committee they supported drafting men and women in light of the changes to combat assignments.

"It is my personal view that based on this lifting of restriction for assigning [job specialties], that every American that is physically qualified should register for the draft," Neller said at the time. In the House, which previously passed its version of the NDAA, an amendment requiring women to register for the draft passed narrowly with a 32-30 vote, even though its author, California Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter, voted against it.

"I've talked to coffeehouse liberals in San Francisco and conservative families who pray three times a day," Hunter said April 27, as the House Armed Services Committee marked up the bill. "Neither of them wants their daughter to be drafted." The Senate proposal was hotly debated on the floor June 7 by Republicans Ted Cruz, from Texas, and John McCain, from Arizona.

Cruz complained that the provision including women in the draft entered the bill through committee, rather than in public, open debate. "I'm the father of two daughters. Women can do anything they set their mind to, and I see that each and every day," Cruz said. "The idea that we should forcibly conscript young girls in combat to my mind makes little or no sense. It is at minimum a radical proposition. I could not vote for a bill that did so without public debate."

McCain countered that including women in the draft was a matter of equality. "Women who I have spoken to in the military overwhelmingly believe that women are not only qualified, but are on the same basis as their male counterparts," McCain said. "Every leader of the United States military seems to have a different opinion from [Cruz], whose military background is not extensive."

Currently, U.S. law requires most male citizens and immigrants between the ages of 18 to 25 to register in the selective service system. The Senate NDAA would require all female citizens and U.S. residents who turn 18 on or after January 1, 2018, to register as well.

Republican Senator Mike Lee of Utah introduced an amendment that would have removed the draft language from the bill, but it was unsuccessful. Another Republican, Rand Paul of Kentucky, filed an amendment that would have gotten rid of the draft altogether, but it too failed to get traction. The House and Senate must now reconcile their versions of the NDAA in conference before final passage .

## First Female Combatant Commander Touts Options for Women in Military

June 16, 2016 | by Richard Sisk

Air Force General Lori Robinson was a lone voice for the military at a White House-sponsored event on equal opportunity and expanding career choices for women.

Robinson cited the three women -- Captain Kristen Griest, Captain Shaye Haver and Major Lisa Jaster - - who recently passed the grueling Army Ranger course as examples for young women who might not have previously considered the military an equal opportunity employer.

The changes in the rules last year lifting restrictions against women in combat positions now means "that your dreams can actually come true," Robinson told the White House United State of Women Summit at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., Tuesday.

"All jobs in the military are now open to women," said Robinson, who was the only featured speaker from the military at the day-long event kicked off by Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama and head of the White House Council on Women and Girls.

Robinson cited herself as an example of the need for women to be more aggressive in pursuing opportunities. She said her father, an Air Force pilot in Vietnam, had to coax her into entering the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) when she didn't think she could make the grade. Earlier this year, Robinson became the first woman to lead a combatant command when Obama named her to take command of U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

Earlier, First Lady Michelle Obama spoke of her efforts through the Joining Forces initiative to get jobs for vets and improve the lives of military families, but she spoke more of how military families had inspired her and her husband.

"I picked working with military families because they moved me. I met them out on the campaign trail and I didn't know that there were millions of military families out there serving and sacrificing in ways that we take for granted in this country. And I vowed then and there, just from meeting them, that if I got to be First Lady I would try to be that voice for them," Mrs. Obama said.

--Richard Sisk can be reached at [Richard.Sisk@Military.com](mailto:Richard.Sisk@Military.com).



In this Aug. 21, 2015, file photo, Army 1st lieutenant Shaye Haver, center, and Captain Kristen Griest, right, pose for photos with other female West Point alumni after an Army Ranger school graduation ceremony at Fort Benning, GA. Haver and Griest became the first female graduates of the Army's rigorous Ranger School. Photo Credit: AssociatedPress



## Career Corner

The Mission of Work for Warriors Nevada is to assist our Service Members, Veterans and their Immediate Family, by connecting them with available resources and providing assistance and direction on their journey to realizing their career goals. We are a federally-funded, free program that guides and mentors candidates through the entire employment process. We work diligently to build relationships with businesses and candidates, and are the warm handshake between the two, for job placement and success. W4W is open to all active duty and retired National Guard and DoD Reserve personnel, Veterans and their Spouses, as well as Gold Star Families.



**For our candidates, we assist with resume writing, interview prep, applications and placement assistance.**

**For Career Opportunities in Northern & Southern Nevada:**  
<http://www.workforwarriorsnv.org/hot-jobs.html>

### **ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST TO VETERANS – THESE SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Internet/computer access
- Daily job postings and access to online job listings
- Copier/fax/phone access
- Daily workshops covering a variety of job search related topics
- Translation of military experience to civilian experience on your resume
- Mock interviews
- Great partnerships with employers in Nevada
- Knowledgeable staff to meet with one-on-one to develop your personal employment plan
- Access to hiring events and job fairs
- Bus passes and gas cards
- Clothing, shoes/boots, and hair cut vouchers
- Tuition for trade schools (HVAC, Culinary, Trucking, etc.) or GED
- Funding for Work Cards (TAM, Sheriff's, etc.) or Background Checks
- Rental assistance
- Referrals to other agencies that provide child care or food



**To find a Goodwill in Northern/Southern Nevada:** <http://www.goodwill.vegas/storelocator>

If you are a Veteran, currently separating or retiring from the U.S. Military, a Guard or Reserve member, or a military spouse, NCOA Military Job Fairs feature both national and local employers.

NCOA Job Fair - July 12, 2016  
Las Vegas, NV at Nellis Air Force Base, 4450 Grissom Avenue, Nellis Afb, NV 89191



The new Job Seeker Seminars will feature topics that will assist in job search, interviewing, transition, and more. Times for the Job Fairs/Seminars are as follows:

Seminar: 8:30AM – 9:30AM

Refreshments (pastries/coffee) during the Seminar are sponsored by: ExxonMobil

Job Fair: 9:30AM – 12:20PM



## MWIN Childcare Stipend Program

**Are you a woman veteran, with a child between ages 0-5 years old, and that is working or attending school? We have an exciting opportunity for you...**

MWIN is pleased to announce our pilot childcare stipend program available to qualified women veteran moms!

Program is available for 0-5 yr old children and paid direct to licensed care providers.

For details email: [mgaleas@militarywomeninneed.org](mailto:mgaleas@militarywomeninneed.org)



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## HONORING WOMEN VETERANS

At the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, we're committed to delivering quality services to all Nevada veterans, and these pages will educate you – a woman veteran who proudly defended our freedom – about benefits and resources.

Women have served the cause of freedom in every war and every generation since the Revolution. Those we honor number some 1.8 million, including nearly 24,000 women veterans currently residing in Nevada. Today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide is women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea and in the skies. More than 177,000 women from across the country have served as fighter pilots, medics, military police and in other roles since the start of the Global War on Terror.

It's all too common for women veterans to pack away their uniforms and memories upon return to civilian life, never to discuss their experiences again. Many women who honorably served don't even realize they're veterans – or realize their eligibility for benefits. Through these pages, we acknowledge your service and offer several resources to help you understand your status and what it means. By working together, we will achieve success in establishing a network to further communication and women veterans outreach.



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## VISION

Nevadans across the state understand and celebrate the legacy of America's servicewomen and **all** Nevada women veterans understand and have access to benefits to which they are eligible.

## MISSION

To provide women veteran benefit and activity information; resolve women veteran problems or refer veterans to NDVS service officers and other beneficial service providers for assistance; and to develop programs and activities that ensure Nevada women veterans understand, and are able to obtain, any aid or benefit to which they may be eligible.

## Connect with Nevada Department Veterans Services:



**Necole Stevens-Brown,**  
**Women Veterans**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Southern Nevada**  
**Healthcare System**  
**North Las Vegas**  
**VA Medical Center**  
**6900 N Pecos Rd.**  
**North Las Vegas, NV 89086**  
**702.791.9000 ext 15518**  
**stevensn@veterans.nv.gov**

**Nevada Department of**  
**Veterans Services**  
**1(866) 630-VETS**  
**1(866) 630-8387**

**Department of**  
**Veterans Affairs**  
**1(800) 827-1000**

**VA Suicide**  
**Prevention Hotline**  
**1(800) 273-TALK**  
**1(800) 273-8255**

Visit [www.Veterans.NV.gov](http://www.Veterans.NV.gov)  
for information concerning:

- Nevada State Veterans Home
- Southern and Northern Nevada Veteran Memorial Cemeteries
- Veterans Rural Outreach "ROVER" Calendar



## Nominate a Woman Veteran for Veteran of the Month

To read the Veteran of the Month Guidelines  
and access submission forms please go to:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

To submit articles and pictures for publication in the  
Women Veterans Informer please email the Women Veterans Coordinator at:

**StevensN@veterans.nv.gov**



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaWomenVeterans>



**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/NDVS\\_WVC](https://twitter.com/NDVS_WVC)



**Google+:** <http://tinyurl.com/NDVSgpage>



**Website:** <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>



**Instagram:** [ndvs.wvc](https://www.instagram.com/ndvs.wvc)



**Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.com/NVWVC/>



**Email:** [stevensn@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:stevensn@veterans.nv.gov)

## Wreaths Across America

Their mission is to, Remember, Honor, and Teach. WAA coordinates wreath laying ceremonies in Northern and Southern Nevada. They also organize of events including international veteran's tributes and ceremonies.

The program is dependent on the generosity and donations made by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate and volunteer donors.

To Donate or to Learn More visit:

<http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/>

Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
14 Veterans Way Fernley, NV 89408

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
1900 Buchanan Boulevard, Boulder City, NV 89005



**"Serving Nevada's Heroes"**